

FAHRENHEIT 451 AT -22 DEGREES

it's cold outside
frozen stiff as i
watch a movie
about burning books

it's cold outside
on highway 93
a cattle truck roars by

it's cold outside
& the fire chief says on TV
there's nothing there
for peace of mind
we burn it
the only way to be happy
is for everyone to be made
alike

it's cold outside
i could use some
of that heat
she says
pointing at the TV screen
i'm going to bed

it's cold outside
on highway 93
they have turned off
the EAT sign

it's cold outside
but on TV
camus dostoevski the bedroom
& even the fire chief
are going up in flames

it's cold outside
frozen stiff as i
look at the bookshelves
& the thermostat
and wonder if i am to die
in the first snows of winter

or if
as that old japanese soldier said
coming out of hiding
30 years after VJ day
"What difference does it make?"